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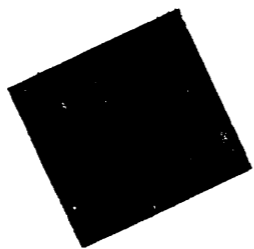
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PALESTINE

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Registry Number } E 2013/2001/31
FROM } S T I F F A N Y
No. } M.P.
Dated } 4th March
Received in Registry } 26.11.1947
 } 7th March

POALC Leaf - March 1947. Below Party.
From the paper leaf had a
no official labour party against
in 1939 with leaf published
against the party's present policy of splitting
Labour at given a number of policy for
would be taken into account and put in
discuss it.

Last Paper.
M.P.P.

(Minutes.)
Letter to Mr. Tiffany.

References.

(Print.)
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(How disposed of.)
Off. S. Tiffany
M.P.
Mar 8
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(Action completed.)
S.P.M. 11/3

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Next Paper.
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Westminster,
S. W. 1.

26th February, 1947.

ST/NM.

Rt. Hon. E. Bevin, M.P.,
Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
S. W. 1.

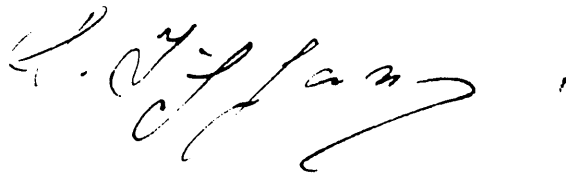
ACKNOWLEDGED
INTV ACK.
27 FEB 1947
Bastin Dept
For draft
reply please.
PCK 27/2

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed letter
I have received from Poale Zion.

In view of the reference made
therein to the Party pledge given in
1940, I shall be pleased to have any
reply you can give me to meet this
particular point.

Yours sincerely,



S. Tiffany, M.P.

Enc.

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פועלי ציון 4

POALE ZION — JEWISH SOCIALIST LABOUR PARTY

Affiliated to the British Labour Party

2, BLOOMSBURY PLACE, LONDON, W.C.1

Telephone: MUSeum 4702/3

Dear Mr. Tiffany,

21st. February 1947.

As an affiliated organisation of the Labour Party most interested in the Jewish problem and Palestine, we trust you will not mind our approaching you at this crucial stage.

In 1940, the Party conference laid down that the White Paper of May 1939 "violates the solemn pledges contained in the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate". The conference endorsed the stand of the Parliamentary Labour Party against the White Paper and requested it to continue this opposition "with a view to rescinding the policy of the White Paper of May 1939".

Numerous statements of party leaders could be quoted. For example, Mr. Herbert Morrison said: "We regard this White Paper and the policy in it as a cynical breach of pledges given to the Jews and the world including America", and he added "this document will not be automatically binding upon their successors in office, whatever the circumstances of the time may be".

Yet it is this very White Paper which the Labour Government has continued to apply since they took office; and now Mr. Bevin informed the House last Tuesday that, rightly or wrongly, the House is committed to the White Paper. We can hardly believe that it is Labour Party principle to recognise decisions by previous Tory governments under all circumstances. If that argument were logically applied to other issues, it would mean, for instance, that because the law of this country contained the Trades Disputes Act, the Labour Government had no right or power to rescind that statute. This is the more unbelievable considering that the permanent Mandates Commission, the only Organ of the League of Nations able to deal with the matter before the war, condemned the White Paper of 1939 as incompatible with the Mandate.

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The White Paper, in addition to restricting Jewish immigration, also confined Jews to the towns and 5% of the country. This was described by labour spokesmen as "racial discrimination" and "a savage law". Since the defeat of the Nazis, Palestine is the only country where racial discrimination exists as the law. Surely the Labour Party cannot be bound to impose this kind of legislation.

The Government have now decided to refer the whole matter to United Nations. We do not desire at this moment to discuss whether it need have come to this or why it took 18 months to arrive at this decision. We will not argue here the case for the Jewish State which Labour Conferences and Labour leaders have so generously supported in the not so distant past. We are, however, concerned about what will happen in the meantime. It will take a year or more before a U.N.O. decision could be reached. Shall the Jews in the D.P. Camps and in the countries where anti-semitism is growing even now be admitted into Palestine in trickles of 1,500 per month according to the agreement, which Mr. Bevin now declares he has reached with the Arabs? Shall the so-called "illegal immigrants", Hitler's victims, be stranded and forcibly deported to Cyprus? Shall the Jews in Palestine remain as inferior citizens by the continued application of the immoral land law? This policy prolongs the misery of hundreds of thousand and drives the Jewish people to despair - a despair which in some minds degenerates into terrorism for which, in turn, the whole Jewish people is made responsible.

The Government's decision to go to U.N.O. is a recognition that Britain holds Palestine as an international trust. That trust is defined in the Mandate for Palestine. Surely it is the duty of the Mandatory Government to lay its trust before the supreme International Body, pure and unvarnished, exactly as they received it from its predecessor, the League of Nations.

We, therefore, urge you to see to it that Labour Party Policy is now implemented in the following respects:-

- a. Until final settlement may be reached by U.N.O. immigration of Jews should be in accordance with the original intention of the Mandate and as approved by the Labour Party. The Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry and the report of the Anglo-American Committee of Experts incorporated in the so-called Morrison plan suggested the admission in the course of one year of 100,000 Jewish immigrants. This should now at least be implemented.

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OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

6 March, 1947.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

H.B.

Draft.

Mr. Tiffany, M.P.

(From the Private
Secretary)

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

*C.O. [unclear]
before dispatch
H.B. 5/3*

*H.B. 4/13
WJ 4/3
Sir. O. Sargent.*

*R V B
5/3*

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Dear Sir,

Mr. Bevin has asked me to answer your letter of February 26th, enclosing a letter sent to you on February 21st by the Hon. Secretary of the Jewish Socialist Labour Party, dealing with the Government's policy in Palestine.

On the attitude of the present Government to the White Paper of 1939, Mr. Bevin wishes to point out that in both his recent statements to the House of Commons on Palestine, on February 18th and February 25th, he dissociated himself from that policy. He did however draw attention to the constitutional tradition that an obligation undertaken by any British Government in the sphere of international affairs, and endorsed by Parliament, is ~~not~~ ^{repudiated} ~~respected~~ by succeeding Governments until they are able to change it by means of negotiation. His remarks on this point were confined to international affairs, and the analogy of the Trades Disputes Act is therefore ^{irrelevant} ~~imminent~~.

Your correspondent also makes a number of suggestions on the subject of interim policy pending ^{the} ~~a~~ decision of the General Assembly on its recommendations. It is true, as he says, that the Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry and the Committee of British and American officials each suggested the early admission of 100,000 Jewish immigrants. In both reports, however, this recommendation was associated with other proposals and it was not intended that effect should be given to one part of the total plan in advance of the rest. The proposals put

/forward

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

8th March, 1947.

(E 2013/2013/31)

Dear Sir,

Mr. Bevin has asked me to answer your letter of 26th February, enclosing a letter sent to you on 21st February by the Honorary Secretary of the Jewish Socialist Labour Party, dealing with the Government's policy in Palestine.

On the attitude of the present Government to the White Paper of 1939, Mr. Bevin wishes to point out that in both his recent statements to the House of Commons on Palestine, on 18th and 25th February, he dissociated himself from that policy. He did however draw attention to the constitutional tradition that an obligation undertaken by any British Government in the sphere of international affairs, and endorsed by Parliament, is not repudiated by succeeding Governments until they are able to change it by means of negotiation. His remarks on this point were confined to international affairs, and the analogy of the Trades Disputes Act is therefore irrelevant.

Your correspondent also makes a number of suggestions on the subject of interim policy pending the decision of the General Assembly on its recommendations. It is true, as he says, that the Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry and the Committee of British and American officials each suggested the early admission of 100,000 Jewish

/immigrants.

S. Tiffany, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons.

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immigrants. In both reports, however, this recommendation was associated with other proposals and it was not intended that effect should be given to one part of the total plan in advance of the rest. The proposals put forward by the British and American officials were in fact adopted by His Majesty's Government as a basis for negotiations. But neither Jews nor Arabs would agree to negotiate on this basis. It is not reasonable, on the part of the Zionists, to refuse to discuss a series of interconnected proposals and then demand that effect should be given to one of them in isolation.

The policy to be pursued in Palestine during the coming months is still under consideration. Mr. Bevin feels sure that you will understand that the continuance of outrages committed by groups of extreme Zionists is a factor which must be taken into account in determining interim policy.

Yours Sincerely

(Sgd.) P. F. Kincaid

Private Secretary

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